

Appln. No.: 10/613,337  
Amtd. dated March 11, 2005  
Reply to Office action of January 26, 2005

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(Currently Amended). A slip shaft assembly for use with a steering column, comprising:  
an elongated tubular outer shaft;  
an elongated inner shaft extending lengthwise within said outer shaft; and  
a slip joint coupling said inner and outer shafts and operative to transmit torque in opposite directions between said shafts and to enable relative axial movement between said shafts, said slip joint including a plurality of rollers mounted on said inner shaft for rotation about respective roller axes transverse to a longitudinal axis of said inner shaft, wherein at least some of said plurality of rollers are spaced axially along said inner shaft relative to others of said plurality of rollers said slip joint including a single roller track surface associated with each of said rollers on said outer shaft and engaging and rollably supporting each associated roller on only one side thereof during transmission of said torque in said opposite directions, wherein said plurality of rollers includes a plurality of diametrically opposed pairs of said rollers, wherein at least one set of said plurality of roller pairs is spaced axially from at least one other set of said plurality of roller pairs, and wherein there are four of said sets of said roller pairs.

2-14(Cancelled).

15(Currently Amended). The assembly of claim [[14]] 1 wherein two of said sets of roller pairs lie in a first common plane, and wherein the two remaining set of roller pairs lie in a second common plane that is spaced axially from the first common plane.

16(Currently Amended). The assembly of claim [[14]] 1 wherein each of said four sets of roller pairs lies in an associated plane and wherein each plane is spaced axially from the other planes.

17(Cancelled).